

Serial No. 09/583,388 (Atty. Docket No. SEDN/245CIP4)
Amendment Dated October 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please consider the claims pending in this application as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for encoding a user interface which comprises an information section and a display section, the method comprising:
encoding a non-blank background for the information section; and
skip encoding a blank background for the display section by skip encoding, when subsequent values of the display section do not change from corresponding Intra-coded values at a predetermined time.
2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, where encoding the information section includes quantizing a transformed image using a quantizer stepsize that is relatively low so as to substantially maximize a bit rate allocated to the information section.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, where the user interface comprises an interactive program guide, where the information section comprises a program grid section, and where the display section comprises a multimedia section.
4. **(Original)** The method of claim 3, where the non-blank background comprises a striped background.
5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, where the user interface is encoded at a server for display at a client terminal.
6. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, where the server is located at a headend of a cable TV distribution system.
7. **(Cancelled)**
8. **(Original)** A method for encoding a user interface which comprises an information section and a display section, the method comprising:

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dividing the information section into macroblocks;
forward transforming each macroblock to generate a transformed image;
quantizing the transformed image to generate a quantized image; and
encoding the quantized image to generate an encoded image of each
macroblock,

where the information section includes background stripes, and
where the macroblocks do not cross any border between two adjacent
background stripes.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for encoding a user interface which comprises
an information section and a display section, the method comprising:

forward transforming a source image of the information section to generate a
transformed image;
low-pass filtering the transformed image to generate a filtered image;
quantizing the filtered image to generate a quantized image; and
encoding the quantized image to generate an encoded image of the information
section, and

encoding a blank background for the display section by skip encoding, when
subsequent values of the display section do not change from corresponding intra-coded
values at a predetermined time.

where the information section includes background stripes, and
where the low-pass filtering reduces visual defects from encoding of the
background stripes.